(Caption of Case) App. of Time Warner Cable Information Services to Amend its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Provide Telephone Services in the Service Area of St. Stephen Telephone Company, Inc., and for Alternative Regulation			) BEFORE THE ) PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION ) OF SOUTH CAROLINA ) ) COVER SHEET ) ) DOCKET ) NUMBER: 2008 - 330 - C		
(Please type or print					
Submitted by:	Margaret M. Fox, Esquire		SC Bar Number: 65418 Telephone: 803-799-9800		
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	P. O. Box 11390  Columbia, SC 29		Fax: Other:	803-753-3219	9
	Columbia, SC 25	211	Email: pfox@me		
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Electric/Telecon Electric/Water Electric/Water/	Felecom.	Answer Appellate Review Application	☐ Objection ☐ Petition	econsideration	Request for Certification Request for Investigation Resale Agreement Resale Amendment
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## MCNAIR LAW FIRM, P.A. ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

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October 23, 2008

Mr. Charles L. A. Terreni Chief Clerk and Administrator South Carolina Public Service Commission Synergy Business Park, The Saluda Building 101 Executive Center Drive Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Application of Time Warner Cable Information Services (South Carolina), LLC, d/b/a Time Warner Cable to Amend its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Provide Telephone Services in the Service Area of St. Stephen Telephone Company, Inc. and for Alternative Regulation Docket No. 2008-330-C

Dear Mr. Terreni:

Enclosed for filing on behalf of St. Stephen Telephone Company, Inc., please find a Return to Time Warner Cable's Motion to Compel or, In The Alternative, Motion *In Limine* in the above-referenced docket. By copy of this letter and certificate of service, a copy of this Return to Motion is being served on all parties of record.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,
Mayaut U. For

Margaret M. Fox

MMF/rwm Enclosure

cc: Parties of Record

## BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Docket No. 2008-330-C

IN RE:	Application of Time Warner Cable Information		
	Services (South Carolina), LLC, d/b/a Time		
	Warner Cable to Amend its Certificate of Public	)	
÷	Convenience and Necessity to Provide		
	Telephone Services in the Service Area of		
	St. Stephen Telephone Company, Inc., and		
	for Alternative Regulation		
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## RETURN TO TIME WARNER CABLE'S MOTION TO COMPEL OR, IN THE ALTERNATIVE, MOTION IN LIMINE

Pursuant to 26 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103.829 and other applicable rules of the Public Service Commission of South Carolina, St. Stephen Telephone Company, Inc. ("St. Stephen") respectfully files this Return to Time Warner Cable's Motion to Compel St. Stephen to Respond to Discovery Requests, or in the Alternative, Motion *In Limine*. By its motion, Time Warner Cable Information Services (South Carolina), LLC ("Time Warner Cable") requests an order compelling St. Stephen to respond to Time Warner Cable's discovery requests, or alternatively, for an order barring St. Stephen from raising the issues that approval of Time Warner Cable's application would adversely impact the availability of affordable local exchange service or adversely impact the public interest in this proceeding.

In response to Time Warner Cable's Motion, St. Stephen respectfully submits as follows:

1. Time Warner Cable is the applicant in this proceeding. St. Stephen is an intervenor. As stated in St. Stephen's responses to Time Warner Cable's discovery, the purpose

of the proceeding is to determine whether Time Warner Cable meets the statutory requirements to be awarded a certificate of public convenience and necessity to provide certain services in St. Stephen's service area. The focus of the proceeding will not be on St. Stephen's financial condition or on any economic harm that may or may not result to St. Stephen as a result of Time Warner Cable's entry into the market. St. Stephen has intervened in this proceeding to attempt to determine exactly what services Time Warner Cable is seeking authority to provide in South Carolina, and whether Time Warner Cable meets the Commission's statutory requirements for doing so. As demonstrated in previous proceedings, Time Warner Cable has a history of being vague and circumspect in its description of the authority it seeks from the Commission and the corresponding obligations it intends to assume. Requiring St. Stephen to turn over voluminous financial and operational information to a direct competitor in the context of this proceeding makes no sense. In fact, as a policy matter, subjecting intervenors to the detailed discovery sought by Time Warner Cable in this case may well chill future intervention in Commission proceedings, to the detriment of the administrative process, the Commission's ability to gain information necessary to its decision-making process, and the public interest.

2. Counsel for St. Stephen has filed a motion to consolidate this proceeding with the proceedings in Docket Nos. 2008-325-C, 2008-326-C, 2008-327-C, 2008-328-C, and 2008-329-C. The Motion to Consolidate indicates that St. Stephen and the other rural local exchange companies (collectively, "RLECs") intend to proceed as a group in these proceedings. While the focus of RLECs' participation will be to assist in defining the authority sought by Time Warner Cable and to raise legal and policy issues that are common to the group, the RLECs cannot guarantee, as Time Warner Cable has demanded, that "no issue concerning impacts on [St.

Stephen's] financial condition will be addressed in the hearing[.]" <u>See</u> Time Warner Letter, attached as Exhibit 3 to Time Warner Cable Motion to Compel.

- 3. Likewise, regarding Time Warner Cable's alternative Motion *in Limine*, excluding evidence on any potential adverse impact on the availability of affordable basic local exchange service or on the public interest in general would harm the <u>Commission's</u> ability to make the necessary statutory findings before granting Time Warner Cable a certificate of necessity and convenience under S.C. Code Ann. § 58-9-280(B).
- 4. Finally, even if St. Stephen's financial condition were to become an issue in this proceeding, St. Stephen has provided substantial financial information in response to Time Warner Cable's discovery requests. The information provided includes five years' worth of Telecommunications Company Annual Reports; State USF receipts; federal USF projections; and links to St. Stephen's affiliate's 10-Q and 10-K reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Telecommunications Company Annual Reports include detailed information on Operating Revenues and Expenses (including Net Income); Balance Sheet information; Retained Earnings information; and Access Lines (the last of which is the exact same information the Commission recently held to be a confidential trade secret for Time Warner Cable, the applicant in this proceeding). The information contained in the Annual Reports is the same financial information upon which the Commission and the Office of Regulatory Staff rely in regulating the telecommunications companies.
- 5. Furthermore, Time Warner Cable is being disingenuous in stating that St. Stephen objected to ten out of fifteen interrogatories, and nine out of twelve requests for production. In fact, notwithstanding its objections, St. Stephen provided full or partial answers to Interrogatories 1-3, 1-4, 1-5, 1-6, 1-8, 1-10, 1-11, 1-12, 1-13, 1-14, and 1-15; and to Requests for Production 1-

1, 1-2, 1-3, 1-5, 1-7, and 1-8. In addition, much of the information requested in Interrogatory 1-1 is contained in St. Stephen's Telecommunications Company Annual Reports and/or in its affiliate's 10K report filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. St. Stephen has provided Time Warner Cable with more than enough information to prepare its case.

WHEREFORE, for the reasons stated herein, St. Stephen Telephone Company, Inc. respectfully requests that Time Warner Cable's Motion to Compel, or in the Alternative, Motion *In Limine*, be denied.

Respectfully submitted,

M. John Bowen, Jr.

Margaret M. Fox

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pfox@mcnair.net

ATTORNEYS FOR ST. STEPHEN TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.

Columbia, South Carolina

October 23, 2008

## BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Docket No. 2008-330-C

IN RE:	Application of Time Warner Cable Information	)	•
	Services (South Carolina), LLC, d/b/a Time	)	
	Warner Cable to Amend its Certificate of Public	)	CERTIFICATE
	Convenience and Necessity to Provide	)	OF SERVICE
	Telephone Services in the Service Area of	)	
	St. Stephen Telephone Company, Inc., and for	)	
	Alternative Regulation	)	
		)	

This is to certify that I, Rebecca W. Martin, an employee with the McNair Law Firm, P. A., have this date served one (1) copy of a Return to Time Warner Cable's Motion To Compel or, In The Alternative, Motion *In Limine* in the above-referenced matter to the persons named below by causing said copy to be deposited with the United States Postal Service, first class postage prepaid and affixed thereto, and addressed as shown below.

Nanette S. Edwards, Esquire Jeffrey M. Nelson, Esquire Office of Regulatory Staff Post Office Box 11263 Columbia, South Carolina 29211

C. Bradley Hutto, Esquire Williams & Williams Post Office Box 1084 Orangeburg, South Carolina 29115 Frank Ellerbe, III, Esquire Bonnie D. Shealy, Esquire Robinson, McFadden & Moore, P. C. Post Office Box 944 Columbia, South Carolina 29202

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October 23, 2008

Columbia, South Carolina